

Testimony of Craig Swerdloff  
Before the Environment Committee

In Support of  
S.B. 312 AN ACT CONCERNING A LONG ISLAND SOUND RESOURCE AND USE INVENTORY  
AND A LONG ISLAND SOUND BLUE PLAN

In Opposition to  
H.B. 5417 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEASON FOR THE TAKING OF GLASS EELS

Submitted by  
Craig Swerdloff, CEO, LeadSpend, Inc.  
March 7, 2013

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 312, AAC a Long Island Sound Resource and Use Inventory and a Long Island Sound Blue Plan. I support this bill, which will help prevent conflict among the many environmental, economic, and recreational uses of the Sound and its resources.

As a father, kayaker, and fisherman, I enjoy the Long Island Sound year-round. Over the last several decades we have seen incredible change, both positive and negative, and I am left to wonder and worry about what the future holds. This incredible resource needs to be protected, and as Winston Churchill once said, "Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning".

Unfortunately, another bill before the committee today would threaten one of our aquatic resources. HB 5417 directs DEEP to establish a season for the taking of glass eels—the tiny juvenile American eels that mature in Connecticut's rivers before returning to the ocean to spawn.

Taking these eels is prohibited by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the EPA is currently considering listing American eels as an endangered species. Connecticut should not jump the gun by establishing a season for them before the EPA and the commission has made their decision.

Please support SB 312 and oppose HB 5417. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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